MARVEL

#2
DIRECT EDITION

RATED T+

EDGE OF VENOMVERSE

HASTINGS
STRYCHALSKI
TARTAGLIA

EDGE OF VENOMVERSE

THE UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL

HEY, TRUE BELIEVERS! IT'S GWENPOOL! OR, VENPOOL, THAT IS. VENOMPOOL? POOLNOM? GIVE ME SOME MORE TIME AND I'M SURE I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING FUN.
SINCE I'VE BEEN LIVING HERE INSIDE THE MARVEL UNIVERSE, I'VE HIT A LOT OF PRETTY COOL MILESTONES. I'VE MET SUPER HEROES!! I'VE SAVED THE DAY!! I'VE ALSO MADE SOME INTERESTING NEW FRIENDS.
MY *NEWEST* FRIEND AND I, WE'RE CLOSE. WE'RE PRETTY ATTACHED, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT. IN FACT, I'D SAY IT WAS LIKE A... SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP. IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...

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A WHILE AGO, I LEFT THE REAL WORLD. I SUCCESSFULLY TRAVELED THE VERY WEIRD SPACE IN BETWEEN REALITIES, AND EMERGED HERE.

THE COMIC BOOK LAND OF SUPER HEROES!

AND IT WAS FUN! I KILLED A BUNCH OF RANDO FICTIONAL CHARACTERS, AND GOT PAID *WELL* FOR IT.

I KNEW THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS WAS TO BECOME A MAIN CHARACTER MYSELF.

(FACELESS BACKGROUND CHARACTERS ARE JUST ASKING TO GET KILLED BY RANDOM FALLING RUBBLE EVERY DAY, AMIRITE?

SO I PUT ON THIS OUTFIT, AND (NEEDING MONEY) BECAME A MERCENARY SOLDIER.

I WORRY ABOUT DEALING WITH *THESE* DUDES, MAN.

I GET IT, BUT LISTEN. *THEY'RE* SELLING. WE'RE JUST BUYING. NO REASON TO MESS UP *BUSINESS*, RI--

WHO IS THAT?

AS TIME WENT ON, I DEVELOPED FEELINGS FOR ALL THESE MAKE-BELIEVE PEOPLE. THEY FELT *REAL.* LIVE IN A FICTIONAL WORLD LONG ENOUGH, I GUESS THAT HAPPENS.

SO I ADJUSTED MY WAYS, AND BECAME AN HONEST-TO-GOODNESS, PRO BONO *SUPER HERO.* PURE-HEARTED ALL THE WAY, BABY. JUST LIKE ALL MY FAVORITES I USED TO READ! NOW I WAS *ONE OF THEM.*

GOOD EVENING, SHADY MEN!

NICE NIGHT FOR A DRUG DEAL, *EH?*

LADY, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT YOU BETTER GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

NAAAAAH, I THINK I'M GONNA *STOP* YOU CRIMINALS! *EH?* SOUND GOOD?

I DON'T THINK SO.

THERE WAS JUST ONE PROBLEM.

NO SUPER-POWERS.

OW.

THAT IS TO SAY, NO SUPER-POWERS UNTIL...

MAN, I SWEAR, YOU NEVER KNOW WHICH SPANDEX IDIOT IN THIS TOWN IS AN ACTUAL *THREAT*, AND WHICH ONES ARE JUST CRAZY.

WORD. OH DANG. THEY'RE HERE.

ONE DAY I RAN INTO SOMEBODY WHO WAS TRYING TO GET RID OF *SOMETHING* PRETTY *BADLY.*

UH, GREETINGS, FRIENDS! READY TO MAKE A DEAL?

AND I SAID, "WELL, THAT *THING* YOU'RE GETTING RID OF SEEMS TO LIKE *ME.*"

IT SEEMS YOU HAVE A DEAD BODY. ANYTHING THAT WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT?

SO I TOOK IT OFF HIS HANDS, AND *FINALLY*, I HAD *SOMETHING* THAT PROMISED THE *POWERS* I NEEDED TO BE A *FOR-REAL SUPER HERO.*

OH, DEFINITELY NOT. SHE IS *NO LONGER A PROBLEM.*

YOU SUUUUUURE?

A SYMBIOTE!

HEE HEE HEE!

WHAT THE--?

NINJAS!

WE WOULD LOVE TO FEAST ON NINJAS.

HA HA HA!

AH, THE NINJA. MASTER OF STEALTH, MARTIAL ARTS, AND HERE? EVEN NECROMANTIC MAGIC.

PUT THEM IN A GROUP, THOUGH...

...CANNON FODDER.

MMM. LIKE A HANDFUL OF NUTS.

RETREAT! NO NEED TO DEAL WITH A *PSYCHOTIC SYMBIOTE* THIS NIGHT!

SERIOUSLY, LOOK UP THE "*INVERSE NINJA LAW*"! IF THERE WAS JUST ONE OF YOU, YOU'D BE A BIG BOSS BAD GUY! BUT SINCE THERE'S A BUNCH, YOU'RE JUST BODIES TO SHOW OFF HOW POWERFUL I AM. *HA HA HAAAA!*

W--WHERE YOU GOING?

AWW... ALL GONE.

YOU'RE NOT FULL?

EH.

YEAH... I WOULD HAVE *LOVED* TO GET TO QUESTION ONE OF THEM.

DAREDEVIL!

OH MY GOSH, WE'RE MEETING DAREDEVIL. AND--

HE'S *CUTE?* HE'S, LIKE, *REALLY CUTE?*

YEAH, AND YOU ARE?

VENOM... POOL? GWEEEEN...OM? VENPOOL? GWENOMPOOL? WE'RE STILL WORKING ON IT.

WE'RE SO SORRY. WE SEE EVIL NINJAS AND WE GET EXCITED. YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD UNDERSTAND.

OH, TOTALLY. LOVE BEATING UP NINJAS.

IF THERE'S GOOD REASON TO.

AND TONIGHT, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN FINDING OUT WHAT THE *LARGER* SITUATION IS WITH THE HAND'S RECENT INTEREST IN OPIOID SALES.

OH NO, PLEASE DON'T BE MAD AT ME, YOU SEXY, SCRUFFY LAWYER.

WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW NIGHT. NICE TO MEET YOU, MONSTER GWEN.

AWW...

DON'T YOU GET SOFT ON US, GWEN. *WE NEED YOU VICIOUS.*

YEAH, YEAH.

OH CRAP, THE SUN!

WE GOTTA GO TO WORK!

YOU KNOW, DAREDEVIL IS A LOT YOUNGER THAN I THOUGHT HE WAS.

THAT IS BECAUSE THIS *ISN'T* EVEN THE *MAIN* COMICS UNIVERSE. HE IS AN *ALTERNATE* MATT MURDOCK.

WHUH?

RELEASE YOURSELF TO ME. TAP THE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THESE UNIVERSES THAT OUR UNION HAS PRODUCED.

WAIT. ARE YOU SAYING THAT ALL SYMBIOTES HAVE SOME KIND OF...*EXTRA-UNIVERSAL PERCEPTION?!*

NO. THIS AWARENESS IS UNIQUE TO US, AND *US ALONE.*

YOU'RE SAYING THIS IS A *"WHAT IF?"* HA HA. WHATEVER, DUDE.

HOPEFULLY WE'RE NOT LATE.

AH!

GWEN POOLE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE?

JUST GETTING SOME AIR BEFORE GOING DOWN IN THE MINES FOR THE DAY, *HEH.*

UH?!

HA, DEFINITELY.

ANYBODY EVER COMMENT ON HOW YOUR NAME IS TOTALLY THE SAME AS THAT MERCENARY LADY, *GWENPOOL?*

HA HA, NOPE.

HA HA. WHAT IF YOU WERE HER, HUH?

OH MY GOSH, THAT IS CRAZY.

LIKE... SHE DOESN'T EVEN WEAR GLASSSES.

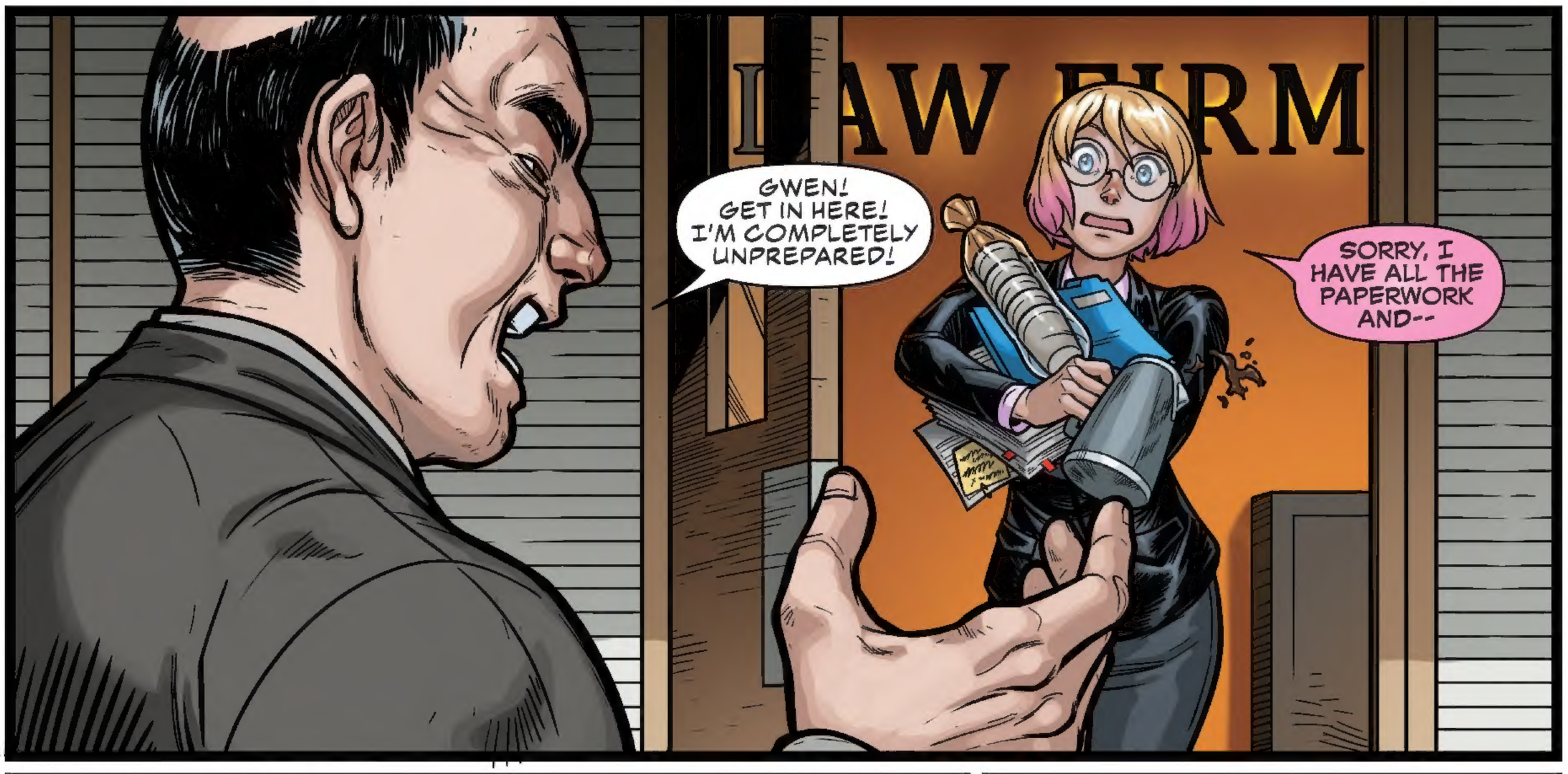
LIKE I DO.

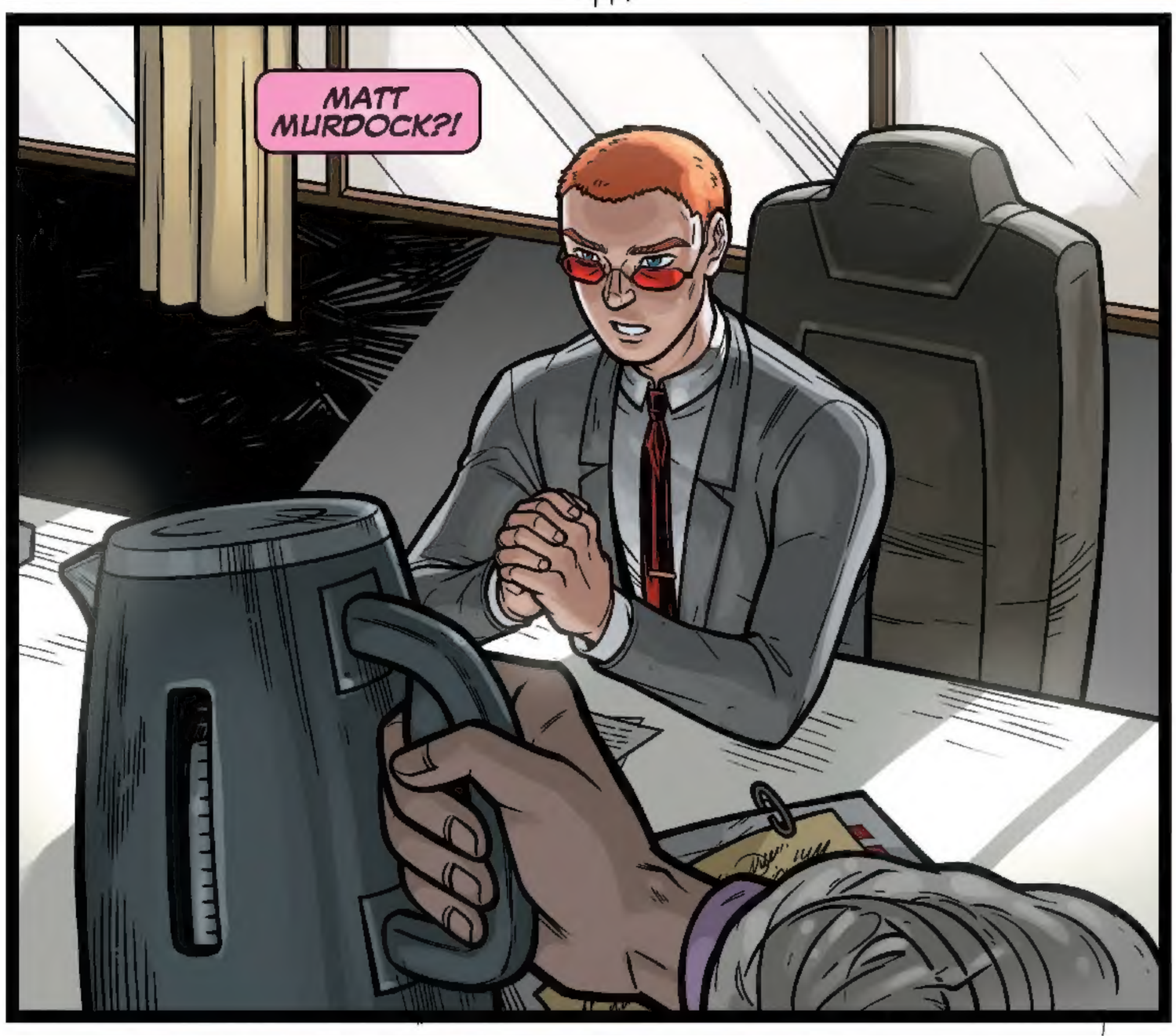
SEE YOU LATER!

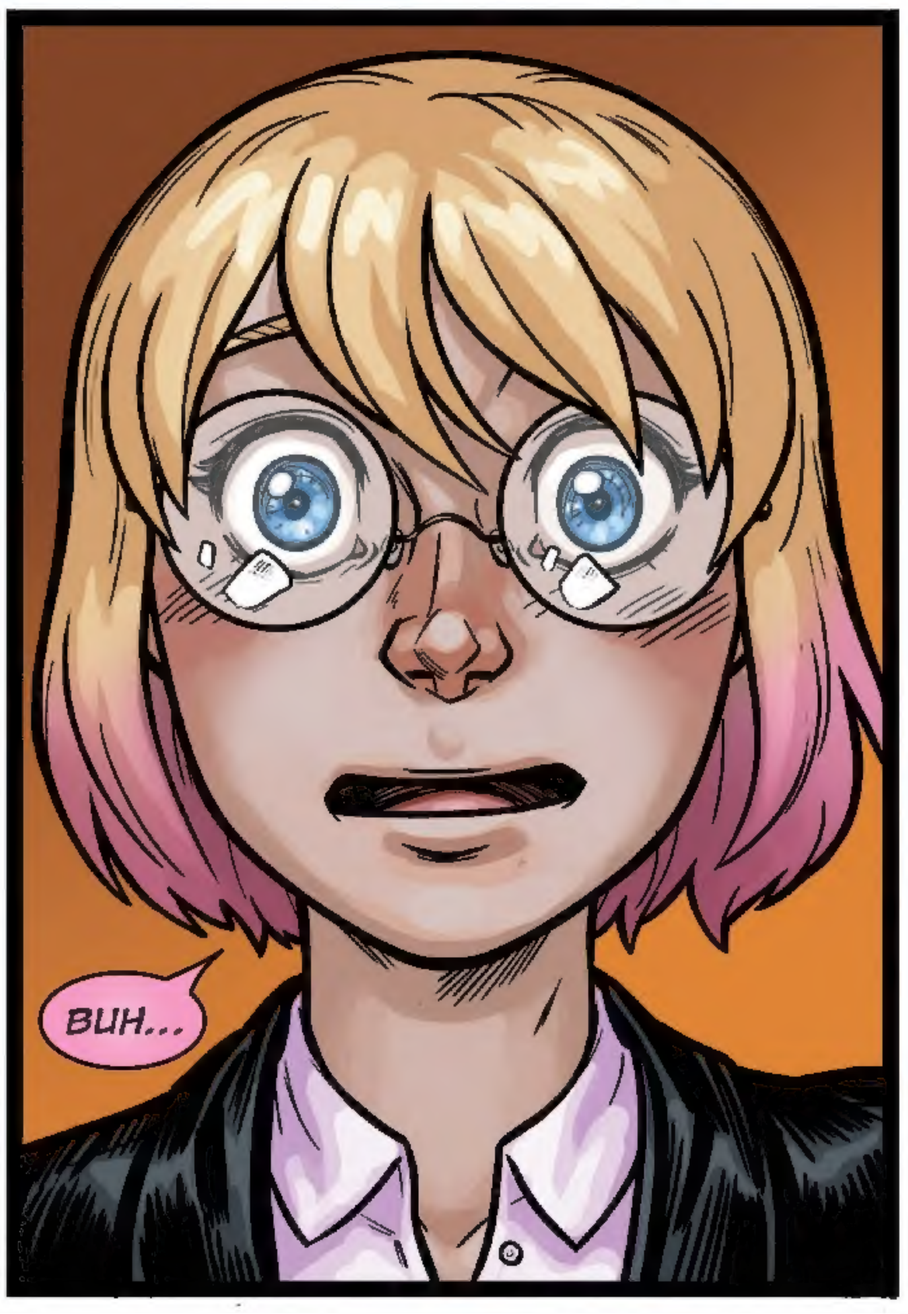
I NEVER UNDERSTOOD SECRET IDENTITIES BEFORE BONDING WITH YOU, GWEN.

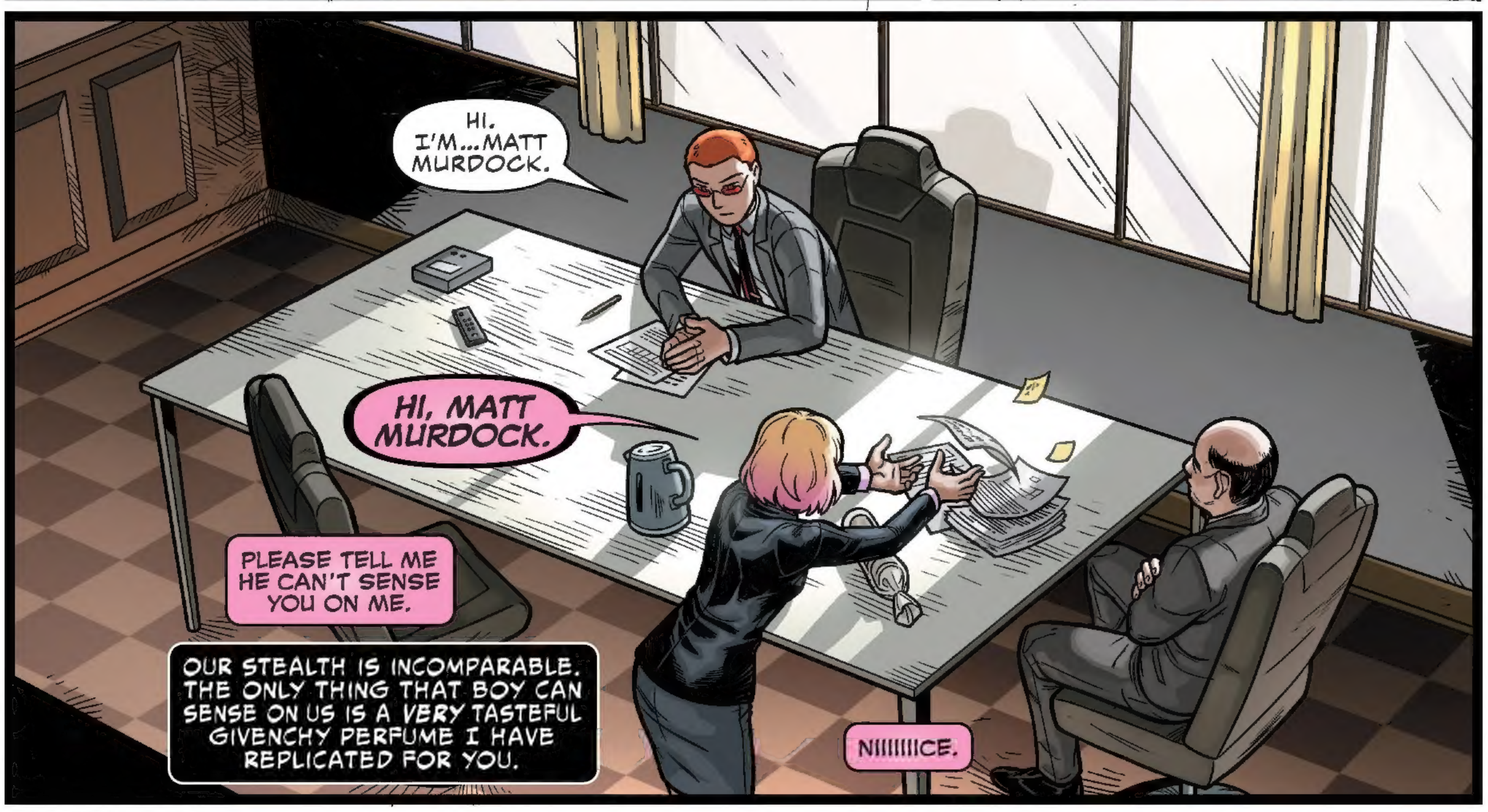
YEAH, PRETTY NUTS. JUST PART OF THE WHOLE SUPER HERO THING, THOUGH! GOTTA DO IT!

GLASSES. HONESTLY.


GWEN! GET IN HERE! I'M COMPLETELY UNPREPARED!
SORRY, I HAVE ALL THE PAPERWORK AND--


MATT MURDOCK?!


BUH...


HI. I'M...MATT MURDOCK.
HI, MATT MURDOCK.
PLEASE TELL ME HE CAN'T SENSE YOU ON ME.
OUR STEALTH IS INCOMPARABLE. THE ONLY THING THAT BOY CAN SENSE ON US IS A VERY TASTEFUL GIVENCHY PERFUME I HAVE REPLICATED FOR YOU.
NIIIIIICE.

...THAT YOUR CLIENT'S FACILITY PRODUCES A *NOXIOUS*, POTENTIALLY *HAZARDOUS* SUBSTANCE THAT COATS A FIVE-BLOCK RADIUS OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS.

MR. MURDOCK, THERE IS *NO EVIDENCE* THAT ANYTHING IN MY CLIENT'S ALL-NATURAL COMMERCIAL CONDIMENT IS HAZARDOUS TO HUMANS. IT'S JUST *HOT SAUCE*, FOR GOD'S SAKE.

THEN YOU WOULDN'T BE OPPOSED TO AN INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF THEIR FACILITY.

WELL, NOW WHO'S TO SAY WHO'S "INDEPENDENT"?

OH, DON'T BE *NAIVE*. YOU KNOW--

GWEN + MATT

Hiii Luuuve

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YOU LITTLE PISSANT. NOW I'VE BEEN POLITE UP UNTIL THIS POINT WITH YOUR FRIVOLOUS COMPLAINT, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING THROW AROUND WORDS LIKE "NAIVE," THEN I'M HAPPY TO SHOW YOU HOW FOOLISH YOU'RE BEING.

GOT IT. WELL, THIS "PISSANT" WILL BE HAPPY TO LET A JUDGE DECIDE WHO IS AND WHO ISN'T BEING FOOLISH.

I APOLOGIZE FOR ASSUMING YOU WERE A DECENT PERSON.

OH, VERY CUTE. YES. GOOD LUCK BRINGING YOUR LITTLE SHOEBOX FIRM UP TO THE PLATE WITH THE REAL ATTORNEYS.

LET'S KILL MR. MELVILLE. HE'S BEING MEAN TO THE CUTE BOY YOU LIKE.

I AM TRYING SO VERY HARD TO DISAGREE WITH YOU RIGHT NOW--

GWEN? SOMETHING WRONG?

HM?! NO! SORRY!

GIVE ME THOSE NOTES.

I NEED TO GET PREPPED IF THIS LITTLE BASTARD'S ACTUALLY TAKING US TO COURT ON THIS.

RIGHT.

I JUST HANDED MY BOSS A SHEET OF PAPER THAT SAYS MATT MURDOCK IS DAREDEVIL ON IT.

YOU DID.

AAAA...

AH, HEY, MR. MELVILLE, COULD I GET THAT BACK FOR A SEC--

TAKE LUNCH ORDERS, GWEN.

SLAM

WHATDOIDO WHATDOIDO WHATDOIDO

LET'S KILL HIM.

SHH. I'M TRYING TO--

FIRE ALARM

THANKS.

MY PLEASURE.

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE. GO IN HIS OFFICE. GET THE PAPER.

HUSH! LOOK UNDER HIS ARM! HE'S STILL GOT THE FOLDER!

DID YOU PULL THE FIRE ALARM, GWEN?

NO! I DON'T KNOW WHO DID. IT MAY HAVE BEEN A GLITCH.

ALL RIGHT, WELL, I'M WORKING FROM HOME. BYE, EVERYONE.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAA

HE'S GOING HOME. YOU CAN KILL HIM *THERE*.

STOP IT.

AND THEN GET THE FOLDER.

NFF. WE DO NEED TO GO THERE.

WELL... I GUESS WE CAN ALL GO HOME EARLY!

ALL RIGHT, WE'RE JUST GETTING IN THERE, GRABBING IT, AND GOING.

BUT. WHAT IF HE ALREADY SAW?

UH...

WE SHOULD KILL HIM TO BE SURE.

WHY ARE YOU SO *OBSESSED* WITH *KILLING MY BOSS?* WE KILL *PLENTY* OF *BAD GUYS.*

BUT YOU *HATE* HIM. *LISTEN* TO WHAT I'M SAYING...

YOU *KNOW* THE *PEOPLE* OF THIS WORLD *AREN'T REAL.* IT'S *EVEN MORE SURE* BECAUSE *WE KNOW* THAT *SOMETHING IS WRONG.*

YOU *AREN'T MEANT* TO HAVE ME. THIS *ISN'T CANON.* YOU CAN KILL *ANYONE* AND IT DOESN'T MATTER.

CRAP. HE'S RIGHT THERE.

UGH. OKAY I MIGHT BE A GEEK FOR THIS COMIC REALITY STUFF, BUT *YOU* ARE *OBSESSED.*

THE FILE.

WHAT DO--

YOU KILL HIM! NO ONE'S HERE. SAVE THE CUTE LAWYER DEVIL. WE'RE HUNGRY.

WELL...

IT'S GETTING... HARDER...TO ARGUE.

...HE IS A *TERRIBLE BOSS.*

I'M STARTING TO THINK YOU'RE JUST A SERIAL KILLER.

GRAH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, GWEN. I TRACKED YOU. AND I CAN'T LET YOU KILL YOUR BOSS, EVEN IF HE SUCKS.

WHAT?! BUT--

THAT THING ON YOU PRODUCES A HORRIBLE IMITATION OF A NICE FRENCH PERFUME. I COULD TRACK YOU FROM CONNECTICUT IF I WANTED TO.

DUDE.

OUR PERFUME HAS NEVER HAD COMPLAINTS.

DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I'M TRYING TO PROTECT YOU!

TRYING TO PROTECT ME?

WHAT IS THIS DOODLE? POOLE...

CRASH

WHAT THE--?! TO ME, MY NINJA!

"NINJA"?

OH, YOU'LL SEE THEM IN A SECOND.

OH, OF COURSE YOU'RE WORKING *WITH* THE HAND. GOD, YOU *ARE* AN EVIL BOSS.

WHAT?

UH, I MEAN AN EVIL BOSS TO ANYONE WHO MIGHT HAPPEN TO WORK FOR YOU!

KILL HIM! HE'S GOING TO FIGURE OUT WHO YOU ARE. HE'S PROBABLY SEEN YOUR DRAWING, TOO. JUST KILL HIM AND BE DONE WITH IT.

DUDE. WE ARE TRYING TO NOT KILL HERE SO THAT THE HOTTIE OF HELL'S KITCHEN DOESN'T GET MAD AT US.

YOUR CLIENT'S NOT DEALING IN HOT SAUCE, IS HE, DUDE?

MORE LIKE...SUPER ILLEGAL, COMMUNITY-DESTROYING OPIOID DRUGS?

WH-WHAT THE HELL DO YOU CARE, YOU COUPLE OF FREAKS?

FREAKS OR NOT, SOME PEOPLE ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT THIS CITY. YOU'RE GOING DOWN FOR THIS.

I DON'T THINK SO--

NO!

BLAM

RING

--

I...

GWEN

THERE IT IS!

MATT

GOT IT! HEH.

WE SHOULD GO.

OH! YEAH.

SORRY ABOUT ALL OF THAT.

I HAVE TO SAY, THIS WAS *NOT* AMONG THE WAYS I THOUGHT MY SECRET IDENTITY MIGHT BE PUT IN JEOPARDY.

HA HA HA HA...

WELL...DUTY CALLS. MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU AT ANOTHER BAD DUDE THING.

YEAH, MAYBE!

AND THANKS FOR *TRYING* NOT TO KILL ANYONE THERE. KEEP THAT UP, ALL RIGHT?

YEAH, MAYBE!

OH. MY. GOSH.

BLECH.

IT IS GOOD YOUR BOSS DIED. *WHICH I WANTED.* DON'T YOU SEE?

I CAN SEE THAT I *PROBABLY* DON'T HAVE A JOB ANYMORE.

A JOB AT AN *EVIL* LAW FIRM!

THAT'S TRUE.

SORRY TO COME BACK AND INTERRUPT, BUT...

...I DON'T SEE ANY REASON WE CAN'T HIT THE ROOFTOPS...

...TOGETHER.

HSSSSS...

OH WOW, SERIOUSLY? YEAH, TOTALLY! LET'S DO THIS!

DON'T LIKE THIS, GWEN. DOESN'T *FEEL* RIGHT.

WOULD YOU *RELAX?* THIS IS WHAT WE *WANTED,* REMEMBER?

GREAT! JUST COME THIS WAY FOR A SEC FIRST...

WH--

OH NO!

VENOM, YOU WERE RIGHT, THIS IS ALL WRONG! THIS ISN'T THE REAL--

RUN! BEF--

NOOOO--

ACTUALLY, GWEN...

...WHY NOT JOIN ME TONIGHT? COULD BE FUN--

GWEN?

TO BE CONTINUED IN VENOMVERSE!

DEATH

EDGE OF
VENOMVERSE

JUNE

- [x] EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #1

JULY

- [x] EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #2
- [ ] EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #3

AUGUST

- [ ] EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #4
- [ ] EDGE OF VENOMVERSE #5

VENOMVERSE

SEPTEMBER

- [ ] VENOMVERSE: WAR STORIES #1
- [ ] VENOMVERSE #1
- [ ] VENOMVERSE #2
- [ ] VENOMVERSE #3
- [ ] VENOMVERSE #4

OCTOBER

- [ ] VENOMVERSE #5

ZONE